

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A pledget and a surgical arteriotomy staple comprising, in combination:

~~the an individual~~ staple having ~~proximal and distal ends and a proximal end~~ adapted for individual attachment to a single-staple delivery device, the staple having a plurality of distally extending prongs commonly connected ~~at their proximal ends, to the proximal end~~ and ~~the prongs extending distally and~~ having tissue-piercing distal tips;

the pledget being pre-attached to the staple and being embraced by the prongs, ~~the pledget having surfaces and being~~ configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs to capture and retain the pledget on the staple and to enable the combined staple and attached pledget to be advanced together, by a single-staple delivery device, toward the arteriotomy, whereby when the prongs of the staple are engaged with tissue about the arteriotomy and are closed about the arteriotomy, the pledget will be disposed and retained adjacent the arteriotomy.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripherally extending tabs configured to be received between said plurality of prongs.

4. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget has a plurality of holes, each receiving one of said plurality of prongs

5. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget comprises a woven or non-woven fabric material.

6. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 5 wherein said fabric material comprises polyester material.
7. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is a polymer sheet
8. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is bioabsorbable.
9. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 further comprising the pledget having a physiologically active agent.
10. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent is adapted to be released over a predetermined time interval.
11. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises a coating applied to said pledget.
12. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is impregnated with said physiologically active agent.
13. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is formed from said physiologically active agent.
14. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.
15. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an antiseptic agent.

16. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent inhibits intraluminal clotting.

17. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent promotes extraluminal clotting.

18.-47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripheral notches, each of the prongs being disposed within one of the notches.

49. (Currently Amended): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the staple has four prongs and further comprising the prongs being commonly connected at a crown formed at the proximal end of the staple, the crown including distally extending tabs or webs adapted to bear against the pledget.

50. (New): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the surfaces of the pledget configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs of the staple are preformed before attachment to the staple.